

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-49. (Canceled)

50. (New) A method of removing a tissue specimen from a patient, comprising the steps of:

providing a device that includes a shaft having an outer surface that defines an outer perimeter, the device further including a tissue collection element coupled to the shaft;

introducing the device into the patient;

moving the tissue collection element to collect the tissue specimen such that the collected tissue specimen is disposed along the shaft and outside of the outer perimeter of the shaft, and

removing the device from the breast tissue with the collected specimen.

51. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the providing step is carried out such that the tissue collection element is configured to encapsulate the collected tissue element.

52. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein the providing step is carried out such that the tissue collection element is configured to isolate the collected tissue specimen from the patient.

53. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein the providing step is carried out such that the shaft defines a longitudinal shaft axis and wherein the longitudinal shaft axis does not intersect the collected tissue specimen.

54. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein the providing step is carried out such that the device further includes a cutting element that is configured to cut the tissue specimen from the patient.

55. (New) A device for collecting a tissue specimen from a patient, comprising:
a shaft having an outer surface that defines an outer perimeter, and
a tissue collection element coupled to the shaft, the tissue collection element being configured to collect the tissue specimen such that the collected tissue specimen is disposed along the shaft and outside of the outer perimeter of the shaft.

55. (New) The device of claim 55, wherein the tissue collection element is configured to encapsulate the collected tissue element.

56. (New) The device of claim 55, wherein the tissue collection element is configured to isolate the collected tissue specimen from the patient.

57. (New) The device of claim 55, wherein the shaft defines a longitudinal shaft axis and wherein the tissue collection element is configured such that the longitudinal axis does not intersect the collected tissue specimen.

58. (New) The device of claim 55, further including a cutting element coupled to the shaft for cutting the tissue specimen from the patient.